

ARMY AND NAVY NOTES

Paymaster General Cowie Urges the Need of a Larger Corps.

From The Tribune Bureau.

Washington, January 5.

FOR INCREASE IN PAY CORPS.—Paymaster General T. J. Cowie has submitted a special report to the Secretary of the Navy, asking departmental approval of a plan for increasing the navy pay corps, which is represented as needing about forty officers in addition to the present commissioned strength. It will require legislation to accomplish what is desired by the Paymaster General, and so far the Secretary of the Navy has refused to give his approval to any plan not incorporated in the general personnel bill, now before the House Naval Committee. It is intended to hold hearings on this bill as soon as the naval appropriation bill has been reported, probably shortly after Congress reconvenes. In the mean time Secretary Meyer believes that the departmental influence should be exerted entirely in behalf of the general bill, ignoring the minor projects which may interfere with it.

The navy pay corps, according to the Paymaster General, is in great need of an increase in its personnel. The officers have been assigned to much additional duty by virtue of the installation on board ship of the general storekeeping system and the adoption of a new accounting system at navy yards. These improved methods call for more paymasters than it is possible to provide. In the last month some three or four have tendered their resignations because the work has become too arduous and the responsibilities too great. The Paymaster General has invariably refused to accept such resignations.

Additional duties confronting the naval paymasters come from the establishment of commissary stores at the various navy yards, one of which is shortly to be opened at the Brooklyn yard for the benefit of officers living in the neighborhood, who will thus be able to buy their provisions and home supplies cheaper than in the ordinary market. There has been some criticism of this commissary store, but it has been authorized by law, and is of decided benefit to naval officers and their families. The demand for a store has come from every navy yard, and the delay in the extension of the system is due to the lack of paymasters.

In this connection there has arisen again the question of amalgamating the navy pay corps with the line, in which event line officers would be detailed to perform the duties now devolving upon the paymasters, as under the army system. It is doubtful, however, that the navy will adopt this method, which is coming in for some criticism in the military establishment.

Although Secretary Meyer will probably not send to Congress the draft of the bill which has been prepared, contemplating the enlargement of the pay corps, Paymaster General Cowie's letter on the subject is one which describes the situation as most urgent and in need of prompt attention.

ORDERS ISSUED.—The following orders have been issued:

ARMY.

Retirement of Brigadier General EARL D. THOMAS, announced Captain HARRY D. HUMPHREY, retired, detailed professor of military science and art at the Artillery and Cavalry School of Colorado, Fort Collins, to take effect February 1; Vice Captain HAROLD D. HUMPHREY, retired, 1st coast artillery, to Walter Reed General Hospital, District of Columbia, granted leave of absence.

First Lieutenant JOHN J. KINGMAN, corps of engineers, from chief engineer of New York City, as distinguishing officer and recorder Board of Engineers, to the Artillery and Cavalry, WIGMORE, Corps of Engineers, January 15.

First Lieutenant DEAN HULL, coast artillery, to the Artillery and Cavalry, WIGMORE, Corps of Engineers, January 15.

First Lieutenant LE ROY BARTLETT, from 16th to 142d Company, coast artillery, First Lieutenant, from 142d Company, coast artillery.

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First Lieutenant FLOYD KRAMER, medical corps, from Port Robinson to the Artillery and Cavalry, Philippines, sailing from San Francisco February 5.

Second Lieutenant CHARLES H. RICH, 20th Infantry, two banks, January 16, for physical examination.

Dental Surgeon HAROLD O. SCOTT, from Port Hamilton to San Francisco, January 16, for physical examination.

First Lieutenant LE ROY BARTLETT, from 16th to 142d Company, coast artillery.

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First Lieutenant CHARLES A. P. HATTFIELD, 13th Cavalry, and First Lieutenant LE ROY BARTLETT, coast artillery, one month.

NAVY.

Captain C. H. HARLOW, detached naval recruiting station, New York, to command the California Division, San Francisco, to the Pacific, March 1; Captain H. T. MATO, to the Asiatic, March 1.

Captain B. TAPPAN, detached navy yard, Mare Island, to temporary duty Bureau of Navigation, San Francisco, January 15.

Lieutenant Commander H. C. KUENZELI, to navy yard, Portsmouth.

First Lieutenant E. M. HIGGINS, detached naval proving ground, Indian Head, to temporary duty Naval Medical School, Washington.

Assistant Surgeon J. R. PHELPS, detached the Suez Canal to the Verment.

Assistant Surgeon E. W. BROWN, detached the Verment, to naval proving ground, Indian Head.

Assistant Paymaster H. W. RUSK, Jr., S. HEMPTON, and C. G. GUNN, detached Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department.

Gunner J. C. O'NEAL, to the South Dakota.

KEMPTON, detached the South Dakota, home, awaiting orders.

Chief Machinist C. EVANS, detached the Calliope, to the South Dakota.

MARINE CORPS.

Majors C. G. LONG and J. R. MYERS, to army service, from the Leavenworth, January 1.

Captain W. H. PARKER, to marine barracks, navy yard, Portsmouth.

Captain W. H. BRADWELL, granted leave of absence, January 15.

Charles A. P. HATTFIELD, 13th Cavalry, and First Lieutenant LE ROY BARTLETT, coast artillery, one month.

REMOVEMENTS OF WARSHIPS.—The following movements of vessels have been reported to the Navy Department:

ARRIVED.

Jan. 5.—The Leander, at Boston.

Jan. 5.—The Fauding, the Terry and the Roe, at Key West; the Colorado, at Mars Island; the Laramie, at Corpus Christi.

Jan. 5.—The Colorado, San Francisco, for Mars Island Light, the Chester, from Norfolk for Guanabano; the North Carolina from Portsmouth, N. H., for Pearl's Point for Guanabano; the Celtic, from Boston for Guanabano; the Suffolk, from Guanabano; the Marlin, from San Juan for Culebra; the Eagle, from San Juan for Culebra; the Calliope, and the Santa Barbara, from San Pedro.

The Flying, from navy yard, Portsmouth, January 5, for Guanabano, Cuba, for duty in West Indies, stopping at New York en route.

TO REFUND COSTA RICA DEBT

Foreign Bondholders Said to Have Agreed on Terms.

The outlook for the refunding at an early date of both the exterior and interior debts of Costa Rica is said, in quarters well informed on the situation, to be good.

A contract has been entered into between Maximino Fernandez, representing Costa Rica, and Minor C. Keith, vice-president of the United Fruit Company, who acts as banker in the transaction, providing for the refunding according to the terms already agreed to by the Costa Rican government and the council of foreign bondholders. A meeting of the latter will be held in London on January 11, at which it is expected that this contract will be approved, and in that event, it is understood, a special session of the Congress of Costa Rica will be called to approve the contract.

The present exterior debt of Costa Rica consists of the following obligations: \$25,000,000 per cent "A" bonds, \$25,000,000 per cent "B" bonds, \$20,000,000 certificates representing unpaid coupons under a previous arrangement, and \$35,000,000, representing the interest in default up to December 31, 1910. The interior debt of the country consists of Limon sanitary 6 per cent bonds in both Costa Rica and the United States.

These obligations are to be refunded by the issue by the Costa Rican government of \$20,000,000 gold refunding bonds of 1911. Both the bonds and coupons are to be exempt from taxes of every kind in both Costa Rica and the United States.

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